



# ZOO RAMA

## Malaysia

(Incorporating 1978 Events)

No. 6

KDN NO. 0095

1979

### MZS ANNUAL REPORT 1977 HIGHLIGHTS

## Our Zoo, Aquarium ... ... Stage Slow Recovery!

\* KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian Zoological Society which runs *Zoo Negara* and *Akuarium Negara* has staged a slow recovery from the difficult period it suffered in 1976, its Annual Report for 1977 has reported.

The report warned however that although the position could not be described as bright, "it was at least not as gloomy as before".

During the year, the Society collected \$758,376 in gate receipts from 593,155 visitors to the zoo and 127,88 visitors to the aquarium. Increased revenue as a result of raising admission rates from July more than compensated the 4.7% decline in attendance.

Plans for the improvement and further development of both institutions were put into effect during the last quarter of 1977 when the government grant of \$959,160 for the year was received, as part of the allocations to the MZS under the Third Malaysia Plan.

The Society's income of \$885,159 during the year exceeded the previous year's receipts by \$145,970 but the expenditure also increased by \$84,982 to reach \$882,036 — this resulted in the MZS ending the year with an excess of \$3,123 in income over expenditure.

The annual general meeting on September 12 last, at which the report was tabled, was informed

that operating expenses at the zoo and the aquarium had been rising steadily due to the spiralling increases in the prices of food supplies, materials for maintenance work and staff emoluments.

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## PACHYDERM AS PIONEER (See Page 6)

## KHIR HEADS MZS AGAIN

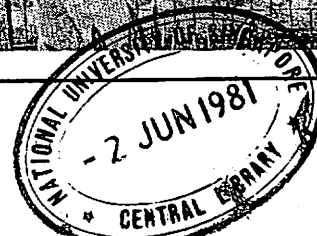
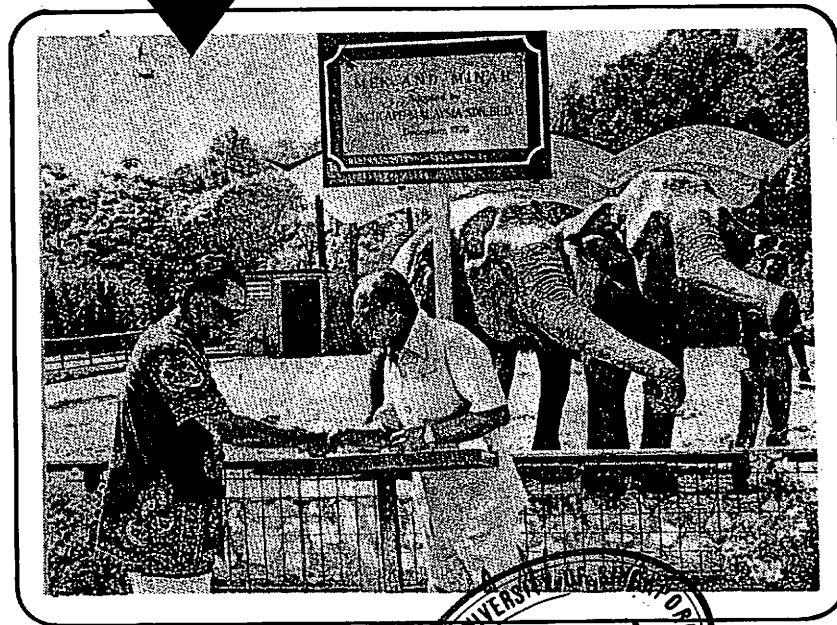
\* KUALA LUMPUR — Encik Mohamed Khir Johari has been re-elected again as the President of the Malaysian Zoological Society.

Also re-elected are four Vice-Presidents: Tun Sir Henry H.S. Lee, Tun Tan Siew Sin, Tan Sri Yaacob bin Abdul Latiff and Tan Sri Dato' V.M. Hutson.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Prof. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Mohd. Rashdan bin Haji Baba has also been elected as a Vice-President of the MZS.

At the 17th annual general meeting of the Society held in September last, the following were

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU... FAROU!

\* KUALA LUMPUR— Born in Africa, brought up in Europe, found a new home and prospect of a life-time mate in Asia. . . . . and now adopted by an 'Australasean' group! This is the stranger-than-fiction odyssey of *Farou*, Zoo Negara's newly acquired black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*).

"Our Malaysian directors selected the rhino as the trademark because it symbolises strength and endurance . . . . . two of the qualities of our Made-in-Malaysia Badak agricultural tools," said Mr C.A. Wade, General Manager



of Besikayu (M) Sdn. Berhad, explaining how *Farou* became their 'mascot' from the moment of her 'Malaysianisation'.

Born in 1957 (the year of independence of the Federation of Malaya), *Farou* had been in Holland since May 1967 at the *Natura Artis Magistra* (Artis zoo) which bought her from the German animal dealer, Ruhe.

### SNAP DECISION

On hearing that Zoo Negara had a male rhino, *Farouk*, pining without a mate, the Director of Artis zoo, Dr B.M. Lensink made a snap decision: *Farou* will be given away as a gift to Zoo Negara provided the Malaysian Zoological Society can pay her fare to Kuala Lumpur.

KLM, the Royal Dutch Airlines, air-lifted *Farou* aboard a widebodied jet to Singapore from where a chartered freighter brought her to Kuala Lumpur, during the evening of July 10.

Besikayu representatives joined zoo staff to welcome her and accompany her to the quarantine where she spent the statutory '30 days' to emerge hale and hearty. Among them was Mr Wade himself who later renewed acquaintances with her (*photo above*) at her temporary padock.

*Bridal Note* — *Farou* perhaps has *Farouk* already excited, judging from the interest he takes in the 'bridal suite' being prepared next door for her transfer from the quarantine area padock. The zoo vets believe that 'introduction to the male would be a slow process', but arrangements are well under way.

Meanwhile, Besikayu is also waiting anxiously for the soon-to-occur historic occasion when the *anak angkat* would assume the destined role of *siri rumah tangga* . . . . . for, it may herald the happy day of crowning glory when the rhino enclosure could create a new adage: *three is company!*

"Our Malaysian Directors selected the rhino . . . because it symbolises strength and endurance . . ." — Mr. C.A. Wade